

# Rain Garden Plant Guide

City of Greenville, South Carolina



Rain Gardens are effective and attractive gardens designed for capturing and absorbing rain water. Numerous guides and instructions are available on-line and in your local library to help you construct a rain garden in your yard or neighborhood. This guide was developed to assist the Greenville community with the plant selection for their own rain gardens.

*This Rain Garden Plant Guide was developed by Christa Jordan, a graduate student of the Clemson University Landscape Architecture program. It was prepared in conjunction with Dr. Robert Hewitt, Clemson University, and Brian Graham, City of Greenville. The following organizations provided valuable input: Greenville Zoo, City of Greenville Parks and Recreation Department, Upstate Forever, Appalachian Council of Governments and the South Carolina Native Plant Society.*

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Rain gardens, along with wetlands, bioswales, and other types of “green infrastructure” help protect our water resources by filtering stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff is rainfall that is not absorbed into the soil. This rainwater collects and runs across the land, collecting along the way pollutants such as oil and gas, lawn fertilizers, and pet waste. Since these sources of pollution are each individually small and occur at many different locations, they are collectively termed “nonpoint sources” of pollution.

According to South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, nonpoint source pollution is the leading source of water quality problems. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources in 2001 published a water and habitat quality assessment of the Reedy River Corridor in *The Reedy River Report, Managing a Watershed*. This report states that the delicate stream-side ecosystems have been significantly damaged, especially around urban centers, such as downtown Greenville (Beasley 2001). This has led the water quality classification in the city to be “poor,” compared to “good” elsewhere in the watershed (Beasley 2001).

The Reedy River is located within the Saluda-Reedy watershed. The Saluda-Reedy River watershed covers 1,165 mi<sup>2</sup>, and includes portions of Pickens, Greenville, Williamston, Anderson, Laurens, Abbeville, Greenwood, Newberry, and Spartanburg Counties (Pasula 2004). The Reedy River is 73 miles long, beginning in Travelers Rest, SC through downtown Greenville and feeds into Lake Conestee in Laurens County before becoming part of the Saluda River and eventually Lake Greenwood.

### Cleveland Park Trail Rehabilitation Project

The plants selected for the rain garden are native, and therefore provide additional ecological benefits. Native plants attract birds and butterflies with their foliage, flowers, fruit and seed. These gardens will also serve as a seed source of native plants for the surrounding areas, increasing the chance that these plants will reproduce and grow elsewhere in the garden. Lastly, native plants are naturally adapted to our climate, soils, and rainfall, and generally require less care and maintenance. When possible, plants were selected also on their ability to remove harmful pollutants from the stormwater, a process known as phytoremediation.

The rain garden project along the Reedy River in Cleveland Park, Greenville, SC began in 2010 as collaboration between the City of Greenville and Clemson University’s Landscape Architecture graduate program. As the project began to take shape, input was sought from community members such as Upstate Forever, SC Native Plant Society, and Clemson Extension.

The project was planned to coincide with the resurfacing and grading of the Swamp Rabbit Trail between Woodland Way and Cleveland Park Drive. The goal of this project is to protect the Reedy River from surface water runoff, and to demonstrate rain garden benefits to the Greenville community.

The banks of the Reedy are steep in this area, and the vegetation is dominated by the invasive, exotic Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). This invasive plant is difficult to eradicate, and damages natural systems by displacing more beneficial native plants. Management of the Knotweed currently consists of periodic mowing and cutting back the plant. For this reason, it was decided to maintain a narrow mow strip along the back of each rain garden.

**Japanese Knotweed is an invasive exotic that is prevalent along the river bank in Cleveland Park.**



The index above lists plants by common name. Primary characteristics are given in short-hand, and more detail can be found on the corresponding page.

Common Name	Latin Name	Bloom Color	Bloom Time	Height	Ever-green	Sun/ Shade	Wet (w), Moist (m), Dry (d)	Page Number
Alumroot	<i>Heuchera americana</i>	white	April - May	1.5 inches	y	Shade	m	8
American Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	orange	October	20 to 35	n	Part-sun to Shade	m	6
Beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	purple fruit	October - January	4 to 6	n	Sun to Shade	d, m	5
Beebalm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	red	May - June	2 to 4	n	Sun	m	10
Blazing Star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	purple	June - October	1.5 to 3	n	Sun	w	9
Boltonia	<i>Boltonia asteroides</i>	white	September - December	2 to 6	n	Sun	w, d	5
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	white	June - October	3 to 6	n	Sun to Part-shade	w, m	7
Bushy Bluestem	<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>	*	*	2 to 5	y	Sun	w	4
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepis tuberosa</i>	orange	May - June	1.5 to 2	n	Sun	d	4
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	red	August - October	2 to 4	n	Sun to Part-shade	w	9
Cranesbill	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	pink	April	1 to 2	y	Sun	m, d	7
Creek Sedge	<i>Carex blanda</i>	green	March - June	1 to 3	y	Sun to Shade	m, d	5
Cutleaf Coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	yellow	July - October	4 to 6	n	Part-sun to Part-shade	m	11
Dwarf Summersweet	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	white	June - July	3	n	Sun to Shade	w, m	6
Dwarf Sweetspire	<i>Itea virginica</i>	white	May - June	3	n	Sun to Shade	w	9
Eastern Gamagrass	<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	*	April - June	3 to 6	y	Part-shade	m	12
Eastern Teaberry	<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	white	June - August	2 to 6 inches	y	Shade	d	7
False Solomon's Seal	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	white	March - June	1 to 3	n	Shade	m	9
Foamflower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	white	May	1	y	Shade	m	12
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	yellow	August - October	1.5 to 5	n	Sun	m	11
Indiangrass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	*	October	4 to 5	n	Sun to Shade	w, m	12
Inkberry Holly	<i>Ilex glabra 'Compacta'</i>	*	*	4 to 6	y	Sun to Shade	w, m, d	8
Joe - Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium dubium</i>	pink	July - September	2 to 6	n	Sun	m	7
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	*	August	2 to 4	n	Sun to Part-shade	m, d	11
Mayapple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	white	June - July	1 to 1.5	n	Shade	m	11
* not applicable								

Common Name	Latin Name	Bloom Color	Bloom Time	Height	Ever-green	Sun/ Shade	Wet (w), Moist (m), Dry (d)	Page Number
Narrow-leaved Sunflower	<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	gold	September - October	1.5 to 5	n	Sun to Part-shade	w	8
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	blue	October - November	2 to 3	n	Sun	m	4
Pink Muhly	<i>Muelenbergia capilaris</i>	pink	August - October	1.5 to 4	y	Sun	m	10
River Oats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	*	*	2 to 5	n	Sun to Shade	w, m	6
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	white	May	15 to 25	n	Sun to Shade	m	4
Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	*	*	4	n	Sun to Part-shade	w	9
Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	purple	April - July	2	y	Sun to Shade	m	12
Stokes Aster	<i>Stokesia laevis</i>	blue	May - July	1 to 1.5	y	Sun to Part-shade	w	12
Sweet flag	<i>Acorus calamus</i>	yellow	June - August	3 to 6	n	Sun	w	4
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Heavy Metal'	*	*	3 to 4	n	Sun to Part-shade	w	10
Tall Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	yellow	July - September	3 to 6	n	Sun	m, d	6
Tussock Sedge	<i>Carex stricta</i>	brown	May - June	1 to 3	n	Sun to Part-shade	w, m	5
Wax Myrtle	<i>Morella cerifera</i>	*	*	3 to 6	y	Sun to Part-shade	w, m, d	10
White indigo	<i>Baptisia alba</i>	white	May	2 to 3	n	Sun	m, d	5
White Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	white	July - September	2 to 3	n	Sun	w, m	6
Wild Quinine	<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	white	June - July	1 to 3	n	Sun to Part-shade	m, d	11
Winterberry Holly	<i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Red Sprite' and 'Jim Dandy'	red fruit	December - February	3 to 10	n	Sun to Shade	w, m, d	8
Witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	orange	September - December	10 to 15	n	Sun to Shade	w, m, d	7
Yaupon Holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> 'Nana'	*	*	3 to 5	y	Sun to Shade	w, m, d	8

\* not applicable



Rain Garden plants are adapted to periods of high rainfall as well as drought.

### Sweet flag

*Acorus calamus*



An aromatic plant suitable for wet areas. Botanists cannot agree whether this is a native North American plant or an early introduction, naturalized from Eurasia.

- Height: 3-6'
- Bloom: yellow and green
- Bloom Time: Jun-Aug
- Variegated variety available ('*variegatus*')
- Culture: moist to wet soils, full to part-sun

### Serviceberry

*Amelanchier canadensis*



In the spring the Serviceberry's white blooms emerge before the leaves, and typically coincide with the emergence of our native cherry blossoms. The back sides of this tree's leaves exhibit a lovely silver color. Berries ripen in the early summer, are edible, and attract birds. Fall colors are yellow, mauve, and apricot.

- Height: 15-25'
- Bloom: White, often flushed pink
- Bloom Time: Mar - Apr
- Culture: moist to dry, sun to shade
- Wildlife: butterflies and fruit eaten by birds, mammals, including humans.

### Bushy Bluestem

*Andropogon glomeratus*



Bushy Bluestem's fluffy white flower heads do indeed catch the light and glow above blue-green summer foliage and coppery winter foliage.

- Height: 2-5'
- Bloom: silver, white
- Bloom Time: Aug-Nov
- Foliage: green or blue green in summer; copper in winter
- Culture: sun; moist
- Wildlife: Provides winter food for songbirds, such as field sparrows and juncos. Larval host for skipper and satyr butterflies.

### Butterfly Weed

*Asclepias tuberosa*



This bright and showy perennial is a boon to wildlife and flower lovers alike. The red-orange blooms emerge in early summer and attract butterflies all summer long.

- Height: 1.5-2'
- Bloom: Orange
- Bloom Time: May-Sept
- Culture: sun to part sun; dry to moist; does not tolerate flooding or saturated soils, so situate plant along perimeter of rain garden
- Wildlife: Attracts Monarch butterflies and hummingbirds.
- Captures and stores Nitrogen in soil

### New England Aster

*Aster novae-angliae*



This aster produces deep violet flowers in fall; fuzzy seedheads. May have 40 flowers at once; flowers with red centers have been pollinated.

- Height: 2-3'
- Bloom Time: Jun-Sept
- Winter rosette
- Culture: full to part sun
- Wildlife: hummingbirds, seed-eating birds

**How to Use this Guide:** This booklet is organized alphabetically by plant scientific name. All plants listed are native to Greenville, SC. While some plants can be trimmed and still survive, it saves time, trouble, and energy to select and place a plant based on its mature height. Primary characteristics for each plant are listed below each plant picture.

### White Indigo

*Baptisia alba*

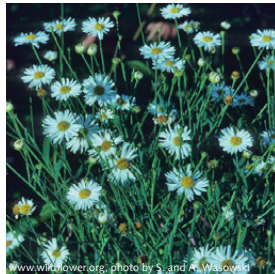


This 2-4 ft., mound-shaped perennial holds its white, pea-like flowers in erect clusters. Velvety, trifoliate leaves turn from bluish-gray to black in the fall.

- Height: 2-4'
- Bloom: White
- Bloom Time: Apr-Jul
- Culture: moist to dry, sun
- Keep plant out of reach of children
- Uses: plant removes toxins such as herbicide, pesticide, and other pollutants from air, water and soil

### Boltonia

*Boltonia asteroides*



Boltonia has a delicate appearance with its white blooms perched on top of long, light green stems. This structure produces lovely movement during the windier days of fall.

- Height: 2-6'
- Bloom: white
- Bloom Time: Sept-Nov
- Winter rosette
- Culture: wet to dry, full sun
- Wildlife: butterflies

### Beautyberry

*Callicarpa americana*



American Beautyberry is a wonderful understory shrub with a naturally loose and graceful arching form. In the fall and early winter, the branches are laden with magenta purple berry clusters that look spectacular as the leaves drop in autumn.

- Height: 3-6'
- Bloom: small, pink
- Bloom time: May-Jul
- Fruit: Showy, persistent
- Culture: sun to shade, moist to dry

### Creek Sedge

*Carex blanda*



Creek sedge resembles grass with broad linear foliage. It can be used as an evergreen groundcover or as a specimen plant.

- Height: 1-3'
- Evergreen
- Culture: sun to shade, wet to dry
- May be difficult to obtain in local retail stores

### Tussock Sedge

*Carex stricta*



This sedge has clump-forming, grass-like foliage. The seed heads are silver and attractive.

- Height: 1-3'
- Bloom: White
- Bloom Time: Jun-Jul
- Culture: moist to dry sites, full sun to part shade, tolerates heavy soils, spreads easily by seeds

**Plant Selection:** These plants were selected based on their ability to thrive in the changing moisture conditions of a rain garden. Most rain garden plants are denoted by the ecological term 'facultative' because they have the ability to survive periods of flood as well as drought. Rain gardens are designed to hold water only temporarily, with the longest holding periods occurring in the deepest sections of the rain garden. This trait distinguishes a rain garden from a wetland that is intended to hold water for the majority of the time. Wetland plants are denoted as 'obligate' species, and are generally not included in rain gardens. The exceptions to this rule are represented in this plant list by the Soft Rush, *Juncus effusus*, which has been shown to thrive.

### American Hornbeam

*Carpinus caroliniana*



www.wildflower.org, photo by S. and A. Wasowski

This deciduous tree is best known for its bark and trunk growth. The thin grey bark covers wood that looks like muscles. The wood of this tree is exceptionally strong, and is used in ship repair as an alternative to teak. This is a slow-growing, long-lived tree that provides beautiful, fine texture and restful horizontal limb form as it grows.

- Height: 20 - 30'
- Culture: part-sun to deep shade
- Wildlife: larval plant for tiger swallowtail; seeds eaten by songbirds

### River Oats

*Chasmanthium latifolium*



www.wildflower.org, photo by JA Marcus

River Oats are easily identified by their charismatic seed-heads that resemble fish on a line. This native plant is easy to grow and spread.

- Height: 2 - 4'
- Bloom Time: Jun - Sept
- Culture: sun-shade, wet - dry
- Trim back in February, if needed
- Reseeds easily
- May be used to stabilize banks
- Avoid planting in continuous full sun, as its leaves turn yellowish without adequate shade. The more water it receives, the more tolerant it will be of intense sun, but it prefers shade.

### White Turtlehead

*Chelone glabra*



www.wildflower.org, photo by S. Bloodworth

White Turtlehead produces white, lavender-tinged flowers. The white blooms mix well with other colors in the landscape.

- Height: 1 - 4'
- Bloom: yellow
- Bloom Time: Aug - Oct
- Culture: Full sun; use in fully saturated areas where it grows more compact.
- Wildlife: hummingbirds and butterflies

### Dwarf Summersweet

*Clethra alnifolia*



www.wildflower.org, photo by S. and A. Wasowski

The fragrant blooms of Summersweet *Clethra* emerge in the summer. This plant is low maintenance, salt tolerant, and has excellent fall color. The dwarf variety is roughly half the size of the regular *Clethra*.

- Height: 3'
- Bloom: white
- Bloom Time: July - Aug
- Culture: sun to shade; moist

### Tall Tickseed

*Coreopsis tripteris*



www.mobot.org, photo by Missouri Botanical Garden

Our native tickseeds come in a variety of sizes and textures, and generally bloom in shades of yellow and gold. While most are drought tolerant, this species also tolerates periodic flooding.

- Height: 3 - 6'
- Bloom: yellow
- Bloom Time: July - Sept
- Culture: full sun, medium to dry soil
- Wildlife: birds, butterflies



Native plants are colorful and typically require less maintenance than many exotic alternatives. Native plants also provide important food and habitat for our resident animals and insects, all of whom play an important role in our local ecology.

### 'Little Joe'

#### Joe - Pye Weed

*Eupatorium  
dubius*



www.wildflower.org; photo by S. and A. Wasowski

Joe-pye is usually seen growing 5-7' tall. This shorter variety sports the same whorled leaves, light purple blooms, and hardy growth that makes this plant a favorite in native plant landscapes.

- Height: 3 - 4'
- Bloom: light purple
- Bloom Time: Jul - Aug
- Culture: sun; moist
- Wildlife: attracts swamp sparrows, multiple species of butterflies, and is good for bees
- Cultivars may be difficult to locate in local retail

#### Boneset

*Eupatorium  
perfoliatum*



www.wildflower.org; photo by S. and A. Wasowski

Boneset has been reported to perform well in rain gardens in the Greenville area. It is tall, has a medium texture, and a white bloom.

- Height: 4 - 8'
- Bloom: white
- Bloom Time: July - Sept
- Culture: full sun to part shade, medium to wet, well-drained

#### Eastern Teaberry

*Gaultheria  
procumbens*



www.wildflower.org; photo by S. Leander

Evergreen Teaberry prefers shady areas, where its small white flowers and red berries will be a lively addition to its aromatic glossy green leaves.

- Height: 4 - 8"
- Bloom: white
- Culture: full to part shade, moist to dry

#### Cranesbill

*Geranium  
maculatum*



www.wildflower.org; photo by JA Marcus

The seeds of this easy to grow plant spread downhill. This plant is semi-evergreen, and fragrant.

- Height: 1 - 2'
- Bloom: lavender to pink
- Bloom Time: Spring
- Culture: dry to moist, full sun
- Wildlife: Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds
- Plant may be difficult to locate in local retail

#### Witchhazel

*Hamamelis  
virginiana*



www.wildflower.org; photo by JA Marcus

Tree-like shrub with unusual flower and fruit that come into prominence in fall and winter. Flowers are showy orange-yellow and fringed, while fruit is less showy and dull yellow. Spring blooming witchhazel (*H. vernalis*) may also be available.

- Height: 5 - 10'
- Bloom: orange
- Culture: moist, sun to shade
- Wildlife: food for turkey, grouse, squirrel, and witchhazel thickets provide escape cover for small wildlife.
- Prone to resprout when cut, so best grown as a multi-stemmed plant.

## Flowers and berries attract birds and butterflies.

**Narrow-leaved  
Sunflower***Helianthus  
angustifolius*

www.wildflower.org, photo by Sally and Andy Wasowski

The large root mass of plants in the sunflower family is good for soil stabilization, improving infiltration rates, as well as removing inorganic pollutants from the stormwater.

- Height: 3 - 8'
- Bloom: yellow
- Bloom Time: Aug - Nov.
- Culture: sun to part shade, use in fully saturated areas where it grows more compact.

**Alumroot***Heuchera  
americana*

www.wildflower.org, photo by JA Marcot

Coral Bells is a dainty, low-growing perennial with scalloped leaf margins and airy white flowers.

- Height: 1 - 2'
- Bloom: greenish-white
- Bloom Time: Jun - Aug
- Culture: full to part shade; moist rich soil

**Inkberry Holly***Ilex glabra  
'Compacta'*

www.wildflower.org, photo by WD Bransford

This evergreen shrub has a more open form than the dwarf yaupon. The foliage is a nice, satin blue-green.

- Height: 4 - 6'
- Fruit: black, not showy, persistent through winter
- Evergreen
- Culture: wet - dry, sun - shade
- Wildlife: attracts birds and butterflies
- Uses: plants absorb pollutants from air, water, and soil

**Winterberry  
Holly***Ilex verticillata*

www.wildflower.org, photo by S. and A. Wasowski

The Winterberry Holly is a deciduous shrub with red or orange berries from fall through winter.

- Height: 3 - 10'
- Fruit: showy red berries, persist through winter
- Bloom: white, inconspicuous
- Culture: wet - dry, sun - shade
- Wildlife: attracts birds and butterflies
- Uses: plants absorb pollutants from air, water, and soil
- The leaves of this holly are not barbed.

**Yaupon Holly***Ilex vomitoria  
'Nana'*

www.wildflower.org, photo by Sally and Andy Wasowski

The ornamental twigs with shiny evergreen leaves and numerous red berries have been used as holiday decorations and make cheerful accents in the winter landscape.

- Height: 3 - 5'
- Fruit: red, persistent through winter
- Culture: wet - dry, sun - shade
- Wildlife: attracts birds and butterflies
- Uses: plants absorb pollutants from air, water, and soil

**Maintenance:** Inspect after heavy rain events and during prolonged drought for bare spots, erosion, and distressed or dead plants. Inspect the plants in the late fall to early winter and remove any dead plant materials. Monitor the rain gardens for invasive plants, and remove these plants whenever they are found. Annually check the rain gardens for sediment build-up, and remove when needed. Replace mulch on a 1-5 year cycle, depending on sediment deposition. Sediment deposition will likely be greatest near the source of input; Ensure that sediment does not block flow of water into rain garden. Some plants winter as low rosettes of leaves close to the ground; these rosettes should not be covered with mulch to allow the plant to breathe.

### Virginia Sweetspire

*Itea virginica*



The long tassels of white flowers and red fall foliage make the Sweetspire an attractive ornamental. An easy plant to grow for its tolerance of a wide variety of sites. Naturalizes to produce colonies, and is aesthetically pleasing in these mass plantings.

- Height: 3'
- Bloom: white
- Bloom Time: Apr-Jun
- Fall Color: red
- Culture: wet or dry, sun or shade
- Uses: erosion control, showy in bloom and in fall
- Wildlife: nectar-insects, wildlife cover, attracts birds
- Plant will spread to colonize an area, not aggressive

### Soft Rush

*Juncus effusus*



Soft Rush is a grass-like, clumping perennial found in wetlands and along rivers and streams.

- Height: 1 - 3'
- Culture: sun to part shade, moist to wet; plant in no more than 3 - 5" of water over crown
- Wildlife: attracts birds

### Blazing Star

*Liatris spicata*



This upright perennial is excellent for texture and color.

- Height: 3 - 4'
- Bloom: purple
- Bloom Time: Jul-Sept
- Culture: dry to moist, full sun
- Wildlife: attracts butterflies and hummingbirds

### Cardinal Flower

*Lobelia cardinalis*



The striking red bloom of the Cardinal Flower is attractive in any setting.

- Height: 1 - 6'
- Bloom: red
- Bloom Time: May - Oct
- Winter rosette
- Culture: sun to part shade, moist to wet
- Wildlife: attracts hummingbirds

### False Solomon's Seal

*Maianthemum racemosa*



False Solomon's Seal has gracefully arching stems and bears its small white flowers in clusters on the end of each stem. This plant closely resembles another attractive native plant, Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), but more prominently displays its flowers. Otherwise, both plants are nearly interchangeable and will do well in your rain garden.

- Height: 1 - 3'
- Bloom: white
- Bloom Time: Apr-May
- Culture: shade to part shade, moist



**Storm Water:** Rain gardens allow excess storm water to percolate into the ground. In the process, they help filter out some of the pollutants before they can reach local creeks, rivers, and lakes. This process is known as ‘bioremediation’ and uses natural processes to help clean up our environment. The soil constituent with the greatest influence on pollution removal is organic matter in the root zone and overlying surface litter layer (Grismer, et al. 2006). Organic matter is added in the form of mulch and decaying plant roots and leaves.

**Beebalm***Monarda didyma*

Beebalm is a traditional Southern favorite. It's an aromatic herb that may be brewed as a tea, or used to alleviate bee stings.

- Height: 2 - 4'
- Bloom: red
- Bloom Time: May-June
- Culture: sun, moist
- Wildlife: attracts hummingbirds and butterflies
- Select cultivars for increased mildew resistance, such as *M. didyma* 'John Cline'

**Wild Bergamot***Monarda fistulosa*

The aromatic grey-green leaves of Wild Bergamot are a nice addition to any garden. The plant is non-clumping and grows in a scattered, random pattern or in small groups.

- Height: 2 - 4'
- Bloom: pink, lavender
- Bloom Time: May-June
- Culture: full sun to part shade
- Wildlife: white-tail deer, butterflies
- Select cultivars for increased mildew resistance, such as *M. fistulosa* 'Claire Grace'

**Wax Myrtle***Morella cerifera*

The olive-green color of the wax myrtle is paired with a fine texture to make this a great tall shrub for screening of the back of a rain garden.

- Height: 3 - 6'
- Culture: wet to dry, sun to part shade
- Wildlife: seeds persist into winter and are browsed by turkey, waterfowl, and songbirds
- Fire hazard close to buildings, resprouts after fire.
- Nitrogen fixer

**Pink Muhly***Muelenbergia capilaris*

Pink Muhly is a perennial grass with a large, finely textured seed head that turns deep pink in the fall.

- Height: 1 - 3'
- Bloom: pink seed
- Bloom Time: Oct, blooms persist through winter
- Culture: full sun, extremely drought tolerant once established
- This plant uses lots of water, and helps to disperse excess water within the rain garden.

**Switchgrass***Panicum virgatum*

Switchgrass rhizomatous, loose sod former with a large, open, finely textured, reddish-purple seedhead. Fall color is pale yellow. Bright green leaves occur up and down the stem, turning bright yellow in fall.

Switchgrass comes in many varieties, The 'Heavy Metal' variety has silvery blue foliage that stands upright. The 'Shenandoah' variety is tinted red through spring and summer, and bright red-purple in the fall.

- Height: 4 - 5'
- Bloom Time: Aug - Oct
- Culture: sun to part shade, moist to dry
- Wildlife: birds; host for skipper and satyr butterflies.



### Wild Quinine

*Parthenium  
integrifolium*



Wild quinine is a low-growing perennial. The leaves have been used by the Catawba and other North American tribes to treat burns.

- Height: 1 - 3'
- Bloom: white
- Bloom Time: Jun-Jul
- Culture: moist to dry sites, full sun to part shade, tolerates heavy soils, spreads easily by seeds

### Mayapple

*Podophyllum  
peltatum*



Mayapple is one of the few shade dependant plants listed in this booklet. If your shady rain garden has a rich organic soil mixture, the Mayapple will be a plant you'll want to consider. The leaf is large and eyecatching, and the white bloom is showy in spring. This plant goes dormant in the summer, a nice trait for accentuating the passing of seasons.

- Height: 12 - 18"
- Bloom: white
- Culture: part to full shade, moist

### Greenhead Coneflower

*Rudbeckia  
laciniata*



This yellow coneflower has green centers that provide seed for birds throughout the winter. The leaves of this plant add textural variety to a garden, and begin to emerge in early spring.

- Height: 3 - 4'
- Bloom: yellow
- Bloom Time: July-Oct
- Culture: part-sun to part-shade
- Seed provides food for birds.
- Plant is host for skipper and satyr butterflies.

### Little Bluestem

*Schizachyrium  
scoparium*



Little Bluestem is an adaptable native that tolerates a broad range of soil and light conditions. It sports silvery seed heads in the late summer, and bronze-orange foliage in the fall.

- Height: 2-4'
- Bloom: silver, white
- Culture: sun to open shade; moist to dry
- Wildlife: attracts birds

### Goldenrod

*Solidago  
canadensis*



This handsome species produces showy displays, usually late in the summer. Although it and other Goldenrods are commonly blamed for hay fever, this discomfort is usually caused by pollen from Ragweeds (*Ambrosia spp.*), which are less conspicuous plants with greenish flowers that bloom at the same time.

- Height: 3 - 6'
- Bloom: yellow, gold
- Bloom Time: Sept-Oct.
- Culture: sun; moist to dry
- Wildlife: attracts birds, butterflies

**Indiangrass***Sorghastrum nutans*

Indiangrass is a showy bunching grass with blue-green foliage and large golden plumes in the fall. It is a possible native alternative to sod, and is South Carolina's state grass.

- Height: 3 - 8'
- Bloom: golden orange to purple
- Bloom Time: Aug-Oct
- Culture: sun to shade, tolerates seasonal flooding, needs tall companions to remain upright
- Wildlife: attracts birds, butterflies, small mammals
- Uses: spreads via runners, good for slope stabilization, important plant for native prairie ecosystems

**Stokes Aster***Stokesia laevis*

Stokes Aster produces large 2-4" blooms, and colonizes to form a groundcover of rosettes. After the first bloom in the spring, trim back spent flowers to produce second bloom that lasts into the summer.

- Height: 12 - 18"
- Almost evergreen
- Bloom: blue, lavender to white
- Bloom Time: May
- Winter rosette
- Culture: moist, full sun to part-shade
- Wildlife: butterflies

**Heartleaf Foamflower***Tiarella cordifolia*

Foamflower thrives in rich, organic soil in the shade. Here it forms a clumping ground cover that blooms tiny delicate flowers in early summer.

- Height: 6 - 12"
- Bloom Time: June
- Culture: part to full shade, well-drained organic soil

**Spiderwort***Tradescantia virginiana*

Spiderwort is a versatile perennial with long, bright-green, narrow leaves that bend to look like spider legs. It is attractive in mass plantings. The purple blooms of the Spiderwort are long lasting. This plant can be seen growing wild in areas of Cleveland Park.

- Height: 2 - 3'
- Blooms: white, blue, or purple
- Bloom Time: Mar-Aug
- Culture: sun to shade, moist to dry
- Forms clumps that spread with time

**Eastern Gamagrass***Tripsacum dactyloides*

Eastern Gamagrass is a clumping evergreen grass that is favored by deer and granivorous birds. The grass can be mowed or cut back in the winter. Leaf blades are sharp, so avoid planting directly next to pathways.

- Height: 3 - 6'
- Bloom: brown
- Bloom Time: Apr-Jun
- Culture: moist soils, prefers part-shade
- Wildlife: attracts skipper butterflies



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